

The Needs of the Blind In
Arizona.
Louise Wilber

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The Arizona Cactus

PUBLISHED BY THE ARIZONA STATE SCHOOL
FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

VOLUME 17

DECEMBER, 1941

NUMBER 3

The Needs of the Blind in Arizona

By Louise Wilber

To be printed in the

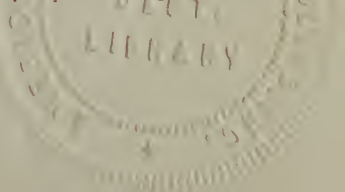
Arizona Parent-Teacher Magazine

Even though Arizona is still a young state, she has made a splendid beginning in the provision of work for the blind. Many of the older states, however, have set an enviable record for her to follow.

Arizona has stressed primarily the education of blind children. The School for the Blind in Tucson affords opportunity for the training of blind boys and girls between the ages of six and nineteen years. It is especially essential that beginning blind pupils be placed under the instruction of a well trained teacher of primary grades. Many schools for the blind provide an ungraded class for backward pupils. Children who enter school at the age of thirteen or fourteen should not be placed with younger boys and girls. A type of pupil who is somewhat neglected is the boy or girl with fairly good vision. The school does

all in its power provide for sight saving pupils but better and more specialized equipment is needed for this purpose. It is not possible for the smaller communities to deal with this problem, since, in many places, there may be only one sight saving pupil. Clear type books and the required equipment are too expensive to be purchased for such limited use.

A number of our states provide home teachers who assist the blind in many ways. Frequently, they find children who are eligible for the state school for the blind. It is essential that these children be discovered early, since, at best, they are somewhat retarded educationally in comparison with normal boys and girls. Many a home teacher has found a blind child of school age in total helplessness, being cared for by parents in every way. Sometimes a partially blind child is rejected by the public schools and is permitted to roam the streets and become a nuisance to society. Visiting teachers could acquaint people throughout Arizona



with the State School and would be in a position to prevent many blind children's growing up in ignorance and idleness. Home teachers are of invaluable assistance to blind adults. Most visually handicapped persons lose their sight after middle age. Their adjustment to their handicap is indeed difficult to make. Current literature on the blind is replete with articles concerning the splendid work of home teachers throughout the country in helping the adult blind to solve their problems. It is the task of the home teacher to convince the newly blinded man or woman of possibilities still open to him. He must assist the blind person in trying to overcome discouragement by attempting to teach him to carry on as before. Home teachers are equipped to instruct in Braille, typewriting, knitting, weaving, house work and in many other types of activity.

Through the joint cooperation of organized groups interested in the welfare of the blind, The Arizona Association for the Blind, The Lions Clubs, The Delta Gamma Sorority, Parent Teacher Associations, and other interested organizations it may be possible to prepare a survey of the number of blind adults in the state and to make a study of their most pressing needs. Much may be done on a voluntary basis. Numerous communities have blind

members who would appreciate friendly visits from their fellows. In a number of states there are Friendly Societies that undertake to assist the blind adults of their respective communities by making regular visits to their homes. These visitors assist the blind adults of their respective communities by making regular visits to their home. These visitors assist the blind by taking them for automobile rides, reading current magazines or books, writing letters, and doing many other useful things to help them in keeping up their morale and in playing their part in society.

One of the greatest needs of the blind is their placement in employment after leaving school or upon loss of sight in later life. For the many blind who are not employable, state aid should be available when necessary. Arizona is fortunate in having the assistance of the State Rehabilitation Service which has helped to some extent in the placement of blind men and women in positions. In order to solve the problem effectively, however, most states have found it essential to provide a commission for the blind, a group of from three to five members, working wholly with visually handicapped persons. Pennsylvania and Massachusetts have reached a high place in the employment of blind workers.

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Armistice Float Wins Praise

The School's float and marching unit entered in the Armistice Day Parade in Tucson received praise from the crowds that thronged the line of march. The following is taken from the Arizona Daily Star:

"Of the many floats, all of which were well thought up and carefully worked out, perhaps among the schools, the two outstanding were those of the Arizona School for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Control Mine school, making its debut. The deaf and blind youngsters divided their space in half with one portion showing children on a grassy lawn under the protection of an American flag in peace and security, and the other section, labelled Europe, showed another group of children, badly clothed, huddled in fear before a bomb shelter. The Control Mine display labelled "Copper for Defense," showed a group of children hard at work around the shaft of a mine, complete with a windlass."

Most of our pupils witnessed the long and colorful parade which represented a pageant of Americanism.

(Continued from page 2)

It would be well for organizations in Arizona, especially interested in the improvement of the status of the blind, to send questionnaires to other states to find out what they

are doing in behalf of their blind. Following that procedure, it should be the duty of everyone concerned to urge Arizona's lawmakers to make similar provisions not already available to the visually handicapped of this state. An interested public opinion will go far toward bettering the conditions of the blind.

The Boys Dormitory

Sometime before the Christmas holiday officers for the second semester will be elected at the boys dormitory. Since September the new organization has helped to make every boy sense his responsibility as a school citizen and to demonstrate his ability to cooperate with all activities of the school. The new officers will try to bring about improvements in the organization and at the same time have a most valuable experience as leaders and workers.

Some of the objects for the second semester are: (1) to make better school citizens of every boy. (2) To encourage efficient spirit in all activities of the school. (3) To encourage efficient habits of study, worthy use of leisure time, courtesy and personal conduct and other forms of social behavior. (4) Development of leadership ability. (5) To make the boys dormitory a better school-home.

The School Family

The past several weeks have found many members of the faculty taking part in various activities. Most of the teachers "pitched in" and did their share to help make the recent School Carnival a big success. Parties, dances, club meetings, financial drives, all took the spare time of the faculty.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Auerbach made a trip to Phoenix for Thanksgiving Day. While in the capital city they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Rountree at a "turkey dinner" and according to Leon it was "par excellence."

Several members of the school staff have been struck by illness. Mr. Hector Stewart, business manager for many years, has been confined to his home and has been missed by the "School family". Miss Barbara Maxwell, secretary to the Supt., caught a bad cold which forced her to remain home for several days. She is back on the job now and we are glad to have her back with us. Supt. Tillinghast had to keep the office business going by himself for a time due to the absence of both Mr. Stewart and Miss Maxwell at the same time.

Mr. Fayette Allee, instructor in the dept. for the blind, has finally

decided to take the plunge into matrimony. The school family was surprised to learn that he will marry Mrs. L. V. Cole of Tucson. The marriage will take place on December 19th. at Lordsburg, New Mexico.

The Jim Jam Jamboree

The first Carnival ever to be held at the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind was given under the auspices of the Parent-Teacher Club. This affair was a big success and the money taken in that night is to be used for Hearing Aids and Braille Books.

The Jamboree was not only planned for a money making party but for a good time party as well. The five cent entertainments were cleverly thought out and were enjoyed by all. Donations such as a ham, a basket of fruit, chickens, cakes and cookies were put up for sale at 5 cents a chance. A 24 pound turkey, in a pen, gave a Thanksgiving touch to the decorations and proved to be a very profitable ornament.

The Parent-Teacher Club wishes to express its appreciation for the assistance that was given by those participating in the carnival.

Our characters are the result of our conduct.

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Wilber, Louise

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